Docket No.: 3691-0122PUS1

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yasuhiko TABATA

Application No.: 10/549,695 Confirmation No.: 9610

Filed: May 26, 2006 Art Unit: 1615

For: SUSTAINED-RELEASE HYDROGEL Examiner: A. Sasan

PREPARATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114

MS RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2009, finally rejecting claims 1 and 3-6, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5.